

Community resources

[Follow us on Twitter](#) [Check our Reddit](#) [Twitter this](#) [Digg this page](#) [Contact us on IRC](#)

courage is contagious

Viewing cable 09BEIJING22, LOOKING AT THE NEXT 30 YEARS OF THE U.S.-CHINA

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09BEIJING22**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09BEIJING22	2009-01-06 08:41	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Beijing

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.aftenposten.no/spesial/wikileaksdokumenter/article3994486.ece>

VZCZCXRO0309
OO RUEHCN RUEHGH RUEHVC
DE RUEHBJ #0022/01 0060841
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 060841Z JAN 09
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1691
INFO RUEHOO/CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
RHMFISS/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 07 BEIJING 000022

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR THE SECRETARY, DEPUTY SECRETARY, EAP A/S
HILL, S/P, EAP/CM
NSC FOR DWILDER

EO 12958 DECL: 01/05/2034
TAGS PREL, PGOV, ECON, EFIN, MARR, MASS, CH
SUBJECT: LOOKING AT THE NEXT 30 YEARS OF THE U.S.-CHINA
RELATIONSHIP

Classified By: Ambassador Clark T. Randt. Reasons 1.4 (b/d)

1. (C) January 1, 2009, marked the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China. Thirty years ago, China was just emerging from the nightmare of the Cultural Revolution and 30 years of fratricidal misrule. China's economic growth in the past three decades has been unprecedented. Just as no one in 1979 would have predicted that China would become the United States' most important relationship in thirty years, no one would have predicted that China would become a global superpower. China has been plagued over the millennia by unforeseen events that devastated formerly prosperous regimes. Mongol invasion, the Black Plague, and the Opium Wars.

5. (C) Popular and scholarly works in recent years highlight China's growing demand for natural resources and the possible impact that China's growing demand for natural resources will have on the world. China's oil demand has grown substantially over the last 30 years. In 1980, China consumed 1.7 million barrels of oil per day, almost a third of the world's supply. As China's economy grows, its demand for oil will continue to rise. China became a net importer of oil in 1993, and it now relies on imports to meet a growing petroleum demand. Venezuela, Angola, and the Caspian Basin.

7. (C) China has also increased its reliance on imported minerals, and many analysts have attributed the global commodities boom of recent years to China's growing demand for minerals. China's reliance on coal has come at an appalling environmental cost. This year, China surpassed the United States in carbon emissions, becoming the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases. The Chinese Government recognizes the need to reduce dependence on coal, and it is pursuing policies to diversify its energy mix. China's energy intensive growth has also had tragic consequences for public health. By most measurements, at least half of the world's population now lives in areas with poor air quality. China's increasing reliance on imported natural resources has foreign policy ramifications and provides opportunities for the United States to engage China on a range of issues. Another opportunity presented by China's increasing resource consumption is in the joint development of technological responses to reduce resource consumption. Experts warn that we must find alternative forms of energy in order to avert calamities posed by global climate change.

Economic Interdependence and Chinese Demographics

13. (C) In the next fifteen years, while China's overall population is predicted to stabilize, its urban population will likely grow to almost 800 million. Behind these outward symbols of success will be an increasingly complicated economic picture. Since 1979, by reversing the misguided economic policies of the Cultural Revolution, China has achieved remarkable economic growth. Many speculate that China has reached the limit to easy productivity gains by rationalizing the state-planned economy. The Economist Intelligence Unit predicts that China will have to manage an economy increasingly dependent on domestic consumption and service industries for growth. Already, urbanization is a challenge. China will face a challenge in the next thirty years encouraging this urban consumption while dealing with the social equality issues that exist between the relatively developed coastal regions to work in factories or on construction projects.

18. (C) With China's phenomenal growth has come increased economic interdependence. This will likely increase, although some of the less-balaristic Chinese Nationalism and Confidence on the International Stage

19. (C) As one of two main pillars of post-Mao Chinese Communist Party rule (the other being sustained economic growth), Chinese nationalism is a powerful force in Chinese society. It is a force that has been harnessed by the Chinese leadership to drive the country's economic growth. Chinese nationalism is a force that has been harnessed by the Chinese leadership to drive the country's economic growth.

120. (C) With notable exceptions like Zhou Enlai, Chinese foreign policy practitioners thirty years ago had little practical experience dealing
121. (C) While still reluctant to claim China is a global leader, Chinese officials are gradually gaining confidence as a regional power. By th
122. (C) Foreign assistance coordination is another area of opportunity. China is rapidly ramping up its global economic presence, not only vis
BEIJING 00000022 005 OF 007
and kleptocrats. However, China is already facing blowback as a result of its more cavalier approach to issues that more scrupulous donors have
123. (C) In all likelihood, a new-found (if still somewhat grudging) PRC interest in internationally accepted donor principles such as transpar
124. (C) As evidenced by Chinese policies toward pariah states like Sudan, Zimbabwe, Burma and Iran, China is still willing to put its need for
125. (C) China's work in the Six-Party Talks and the Shanghai Cooperative Organization may provide guidance as to how to accelerate this trend.
126. (C) Likewise, as the Chinese economy takes up a larger portion of the global economy, it inevitably will become increasingly affected by t
BEIJING 00000022 006 OF 007
supporting the international economic and financial system.

Role of the Military

127. (C) The disparate possibilities exist that in the coming decades the PLA will evolve into a major competitor, maintain only a regional pre
128. (C) Thirty years ago the PLA was a bloated political organization with antiquated equipment and tactics. Today, the PLA is leaner and is b
129. (C) Over the past thirty years, Chinese officials have come to begrudgingly acknowledge the benefits to East Asia resulting from the U.S.
130. (C) Whatever the state of our future relations with China, we will need to understand more about the Chinese military. Multilateral traini
BEIJING 00000022 007 OF 007

Taiwan and Human Rights

131. (C) Taiwan was the most vexing issue holding up the establishment of relations 30 years ago and remains the toughest issue for U.S.-China
132. (C) Thirty years ago, the Chinese state interfered in virtually every aspect of its citizens' lives. An individual's work unit provided hc
133. (C) While the U.S. model of democracy is not the only example of a tolerant open society, we should continue to push for the expansion of